

03560.003357

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MAKOTO SAITO, ET AL.

Appln. No.: 10/665,428

Filed: September 22, 2003

For: IMAGE FORMATION APPARATUS)
HAVING INTERMEDIATE TRANSFER :
MEMBER AND ELECTRICALLY)
GROUNDED CONTACT MEMBER :
DISPOSED IN CONTACT WITH)
INTERMEDIATE TRANSFER MEMBER :
BETWEEN PRIMARY TRANSFER)
PORTION AND SECONDARY :
TRANSFER PORTION)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

JP 2000-298408 is mentioned in the specification (for example, at page 5 thereof) and may be relevant for the reasons discussed therein. U.S. Patent No. 6,298,212 B1 is a corresponding English-language document. In addition, enclosed is an English-language abstract, obtained from a commercial database, for the JP document.

FORMAL MATTERS

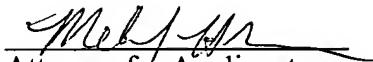
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is believed to be required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned, indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Melody H. Wu
Registration No. 52,376

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MHW/lp

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Submitted: February 12, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.
03560.003357APPLICATION NO.
10/665,428

APPLICANT

MAKOTO SAITO, ET AL.

FILING DATE

September 22, 2003

GROUP

Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,477,340 B2	11/2002	Tomizawa, et al.	399	66
	6,298,212 B1	10/2001	Kono, et al.	399	302

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	2000-298408	10/2000	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1

MHW/lip